

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1 (Amended). A method of increasing the capacity for secretory protein synthesis in a plant, comprising causing a plant to maintain in at least a part of the plant a level of lumenal binding protein (BiP), or a homologue thereof, wherein said level of BiP or homologue thereof is greater than the endogenous level of BiP or homologue thereof for said plant in non-stressful conditions.

2 (Amended). A method according to claim 1, whereby the period of time within which the plant's natural defense mechanism responds to attack by a plant pathogen is reduced.

3 (Amended). A method according to claim 1 wherein the level of BiP, or a homologue thereof, is at least three times said endogenous level of BiP or homologue thereof.

4 (Amended). A method according to claim 3 wherein said level of BiP or homologue thereof is at least five times said endogenous level of BiP or homologue thereof.

5 (Amended). A method according to claim 1 wherein said level of BiP or homologue thereof is effected by overexpressing BiP, or a homologue thereof, by means of a chimeric gene containing a strong constitutive promoter, a coding region for BiP or a homologue thereof, and a 3' untranslated end containing a stop sequence.

6 (Amended). A method according to claim 1 wherein said level of BiP or homologue thereof is effected by overexpressing calreticulin, or a homologue thereof, by means of a chimeric gene containing a strong constitutive promoter, a coding region for calreticulin or a homologue thereof and a 3' untranslated end containing a stop sequence.

090844-0100
2007-04-10

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7 (Amended). A method according to claim 1 wherein said level of BiP or homologue thereof is effected by overexpressing (1) the ATPase domain of BiP, or a homologue thereof, and (2) an endoplasmic reticulum (ER) retention signal by means of a chimeric gene containing a strong constitutive promoter, a coding region for the ATPase domain of BiP, or a homologue thereof, a coding region for an ER retention signal and a 3' untranslated end containing a stop sequence.

8 (Amended). A method according to claim 1 wherein said level of BiP or homologue thereof is effected by modifying at least one signal transduction pathway leading to BiP induction.

9 (Amended). A method according to claim 1 further comprising treating the plant with salicylic acid.

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11 (Amended). A modified plant according to claim 10 wherein the level of BiP, or a homologue thereof, is at least five times greater than the level maintained by an unmodified plant of the same species in non-stressful conditions.

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14 (Amended). A modified plant or plant cells according to claim 15 wherein the level of BiP or a homologue thereof is at least five times greater than the endogenous level of BiP or a homologue thereof of the plant or plant cells in non-stressful conditions.

Please add the following new claims:

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15. A modified plant or plant cell having a level of BiP, or a homologue thereof, which is at least three times greater than the endogenous level of the plant or plant cells, whereby said modified plant or plant cell is produced by the method of Claim 1.

16. A method of protecting a plant against pathogen attack by overexpressing BiP or a homologue thereof in combination with administering salicylic acid to said plant in an amount sufficient to protect the plant against said pathogen attack.